

Plan ahead for major river flow increase

by Mark Dykes

The Bureau of Reclamation issued its forecast of the April through July runoff predicted for the Bighorn Basin.

According to the report, inflow to Boysen Reservoir is forecast to be 1,500,000 acre-feet (af), which is 278 percent of the 30-year average of 540,000 af. Approximately 132,800 af of the forecasted amount flowed into Boysen during April, leaving approximately 1,367,200 af of inflow forecasted for May through July.

Releases from Boysen Dam to the Wind River are scheduled to increase to 6,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) today, following a temporary decrease 3,000 cfs, to allow the Wyoming

Department of Transportation to stabilize an embankment along Highway 20/789, near the Upper Campground.

County Emergency Management Coordinator Bill Gordon said the record inflow at the reservoir was in 1967, at 1.2 million af, which resulted in flows from the dam over 14,000 feet. The current inflow forecast for May through July of this year, Gordon said, is for 1.5 million af.

The maximum height for the reservoir, Gordon said, is 4,725 feet above sea level, and the level can be dropped to 4,700, which is the top of the spillway; this point is as low as it can go. The level was at 4,704 when it was appar-

ent the release from the reservoir had to be reduced to allow for the work to stabilize the embankment near the Upper Campground. Gordon further added a geologist said the hill along the northbound side of the highway is sliding, and the work done this week is to help stabilize the hill prior to increased flows this summer.

Gordon said outflows from the reservoir are adjusted accordingly, depending on how fast the reservoir is filling, to prevent water from flowing over the top of the spillway gate. There is also the hope there will be a full reservoir

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photo by Mark Dykes

Swingin' students

Pre-school students from Risen Son Christian School get into the music during the Sunday School Swing, last week during their spring program. In addition to religious songs and Bible passage recitations during the program, several numbers had a patriotic theme. From left are: Cheston Kimes, Taylin Birdsley, Dawson McLean, Kylie Geis and Samuel Johnson.

HSCSD stakeholders discuss programs, grants

by Cindy Glasson

Hot Springs County School District #1 held their consolidated grant planning meeting for stakeholders on Tuesday, May 9, discussing each of the various grants and what they are used for.

District staff, parents and members of the public attended the meeting learning that funding for schools comes from two basic areas, state funding and federal grants.

Superintendent Dustin Hunt made it very clear that the grant monies cannot be used to supplant programs, but are intended to be used to supplement programs which are already in place.

Each of the grants the district depends on have certain criteria the district must report before receiving or being considered for funding.

For instance, we have to prove that our schools are not persistently dangerous schools, that a crisis plan is in effect and regular drills for the plan are conducted, homeless students can receive assistance and that the district has a student wellness policy in place with annual reviews.

Head of maintenance, Jere Apland, has been working on security measures for the schools for the past three years including building security to supplement

the crisis plan.

The wellness policy is reviewed each year, taking government suggestions into account and rewriting the policy when necessary to ensure the nutrition and exercise requirements are included for all grade levels.

A big change was made for this school year – the implementation of “made from scratch” items on the lunch menus.

Parents have often questioned what can be done since many of the older students are still hungry after lunch.

Federal guidelines have determined what the calorie intake should be for students, often forgetting that students sometimes need added calories, especially if they are participating in sports.

Hunt said, with the relaxing of some of those guidelines, they are already looking into ways to prevent those active students from being hungry after lunch.

Along with the nutritional aspect of wellness, there is also exercise, most commonly known as P.E.

Some changes have been made in that arena, too, with the start of programs that are more life-time sports such as hiking, climbing and biking, exercise students may be more apt to use even after they’re out of school.

One item that is crucial in receiving many of the grants is proof that our educators meet the “highly qualified”

requirement.

How do you differentiate between qualified and highly qualified?

All teachers are certified, however, 95% of the teaching staff and 100% of the district’s teachers meet the highly qualified requirement.

Highly qualified indicates the teacher has passed the Praxis test and has recertified as an educator every five years. Pay scale is dependent on the teacher’s level of education so continuing their schooling during the summer months is important.

21st Century Community Learning Center—The purpose of this grant is to enhance student’s academic performance through enrichment activities outside their school day – the Lights On Afterschool program.

This is the only grant the district uses that is actually a competitive grant. In other words, the district has to show they have a better program than another district in order to receive the funding.

The program is currently at the end of the five-year Cohort 8 grant cycle and have applied for another five years. They will not know until October whether or not they have been chosen.

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Figures proposed for East Thermopolis services

by Mark Dykes

Tuesday evening, Thermopolis Town Council approved proposals of \$25,000 and \$30,000, for the Thermopolis Police Department to provide services to East Thermopolis. Currently, East Thermopolis pays \$22,680 for police and animal control. The \$25,000 figure is for law enforcement only, and the \$30,000 is for both services.

Should East Thermopolis decline the proposals, it would mean less income for the town. Additionally, Police Chief Steve Shay noted, the Hot Springs County Sheriff’s Office would then become the primary enforcement agency for East Thermopo-

lis, though the police department could be requested to respond to incidents on their behalf until a deputy arrived.

In other action, council approved a motion to allow Bangkok Thai restaurant to have three tables, each with two seats, in front of the restaurant. Council was assured the tables would not block the sidewalk.

A motion was approved to change the lights and add some signage for the veterans tree in Bicentennial Park. Meri Ann Rush said the tree currently has Christmas lights on it, and if it is a veterans tree the lights should be red, white and blue. Rush also noted there should be a mark-

er so people know it is a veterans tree.

Mayor Mortimore noted the tree was recognized as a veterans tree when the first soldiers returned home from Operation Desert Storm and yellow ribbons were tied on the branches.

A couple motions regarding street closures were approved for Saturday, June 24 for 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and for 9 p.m. to midnight. The closures are for the upcoming PRCA Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous Rodeo, for the parade and the street dance.

Tawna McQueen explained the parade route will be the same as it has been the past four or five years. The staging area

will be along Sixth Street, south of Shoshoni, and the route will be north along Sixth to Broadway, then east along Broadway to the VFW. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. McQueen also requested the north side of Broadway be blocked off from parking, as vehicles there might spook the bucking horses being run.

The street dance follows the final rodeo performance the night of June 24, and the approved closure is for the north side of Broadway, from Town Hall to the stoplight. This leaves the south side open for emergency vehicles to get through.

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HSCHS graduation Sunday

Hot Springs County High School graduation will be Sunday, May 21 in the high school gym beginning at 2 p.m. Forty-nine members of the class of 2017 will receive their diplomas.

Speakers will be Senator Mike Enzi and school board member Tobi Johansen.

Valedictorians are Shayna Bauer, Chloe Crosby and Margaret Ryan. Salutatorian is Caleb DeCroo.

The class motto is “Chase your dreams, but always know the road that’ll lead you home again,” by Tim McGraw. Class flower is a white daisy. Class song is “Three Little Birds” by Bob Marley with class colors being purple and gold.

A graduation party will be held for the seniors at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 21 at Thermopolis Middle School featuring games and prizes.

Please see the graduation insert in this issue of the Thermopolis Independent Record for pictures of the graduates and well wishes from advertisers.